

OVERVIEW

MISSOURI IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

Overview

Missouri Improvement Plan for Special Education

I. Purpose

The Division of Special Education developed and submitted the Missouri Self-Assessment to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in October 2002. We received our monitoring report from OSEP in March 2003. Based upon the results of that monitoring, the Missouri Improvement Plan includes four areas:

- Part B Area of Non-Compliance
- Elementary Achievement
- Post-Secondary Outcomes
- Part C Performance Report (Includes areas of non-compliance)

This Improvement Plan is consistent with the Missouri Performance Goals for students with disabilities, the Missouri School Improvement Plan (MSIP) performance indicators for all students and Missouri requirements for No Child Left Behind (NCLB). The Division of Special Education is working with the Division of School Improvement and Federal Programs to develop strategies to align requirements for 4th cycle MSIP beginning July 1, 2006.

The Part B and Part C plans are combined into one document but are in two different formats.

II. Process

Steering Committees

Both the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAP) and the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) agreed to remain as the steering committees for the Improvement Plan.

Part B

The SEAP reviewed the Self-Assessment and identified two priority areas. Upon receipt of the OSEP monitoring report, the area of Non-Compliance for City/County Jails was added. The SEAP identified members to meet with the Improvement Planning subcommittees and recommended positions and individuals to participate on the committees.

The Division worked with Great Lakes Area Regional Resource Center (GLARRC) to design a process to arrive at strategies. GLARRC facilitated two 2-day meetings with two groups of stakeholders during April 2003. One session dealt with elementary achievement. The second group dealt with post-secondary outcomes. The objective for the initial meetings were:

- To generate, clarify, classify and prioritize causal factors that inhibit a coordinated system
- To analyze the root causes that inhibit a coordinated system

The objective for the second 2-day meeting of each committee was:

- To review system of root causes/ barriers and improve outcomes
- To generate clarify, classify and prioritize strategies
- To construct alternative profiles of recommended strategies
- To build consensus on the profile of strategies
- To map the influence relationships of the consensus profile

These meetings provided the Division strategic directives to build the improvement strategies and a wealth of specific activities to consider. Subcommittee's overall participation was a concern due to last minute cancellations by some of the members. This concern was noted by the panel, subcommittees and the Division, however all were satisfied with the scope of the Improvement Plan that was developed.

Part C

The co-chairs of the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) conducted a conference call with Division staff to identify priority areas based on the Part C Self-Assessment. Three priority areas were identified and presented to the SICC at the March 14, 2003 meeting. The SICC agreed on the following three areas: child find to include community awareness; provider recruitment to include natural environments; and Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) services to include family satisfaction and exit data. The SICC voted to include the Improvement Plan in the Part C Annual Performance Report required by Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). They also agreed to use this format for the SICC report.

Following that meeting, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) received the monitoring report from OSEP. DESE incorporated the OSEP findings and the SICC priorities in the Part C Annual Performance Report.

III. Content

The **Part B** plan includes three priority areas. The targets and benchmarks for the Elementary Achievement Area are consistent with the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) guidelines included in the Missouri No Child Left Behind (NCLB) plan. The Part B Improvement Plan contains the following components:

Priority Areas	Components
1. Monitoring of City/County Jails - non-compliance area 2. Elementary Achievement 3. Post-Secondary Outcomes	1. Primary indicators 2. Target 3. Benchmarks 4. Improvement Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Desired Result• Current reality/Data• Improvement Strategies• Strategy benchmarks• Evidence of change• Strategy timelines /resources

The **Part C** Annual Performance Report format contains both the Part C corrective actions outlined in the OSEP monitoring report for Missouri and the Missouri Improvement Plan for Part C. Missouri implemented the redesigned Part C - First Steps system statewide on March 1, 2003. The Part C Annual Performance report includes the data previously submitted to OSEP in the Missouri Self-Assessment and current data from the Phase II SPOE regions as of June 2003.

The future activities include areas that were identified by OSEP in the Missouri Monitoring report and ongoing review of data for the remaining components and indicators.

The Part C priority areas include:

- Child Find
- Correction of Non-Compliance Areas
- Timelines for Evaluation
- Part C Monitoring System
- Interagency Agreements
- Personnel
- Service Coordination
- Evaluation/Assessment
- Family Centered Services
- Early Childhood Transition

IV. Management

The Division of Special Education (DESE) will monitor the implementation of the Missouri Improvement Plan for Special Education through the use of new Project Management software. The contents of the Part B and Part C plan, including detailed activity plans, will be available to staff within the division for ongoing monitoring of activity timelines and planning activities.

Reports will be provided to both the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) and the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) at their regular meetings. The Division of Special Education will continue to receive feedback and input from both of the Advisory groups regarding the activities and progress of the Improvement Plan.

The Division will also update our website to include an Improvement Planning page with related activities, links and reports of progress. The initial page will be put in place by September 2003 and will continue to evolve during the 2003-04 school year.

V. Resources

Part B contractual resources will be redirected beginning in 2004-05 to support the new strategies in this plan.

Part C contractual resources will be redirected beginning in 2004-05 to support new Part C strategies. The statewide implementation of the redesigned First Steps system occurred on March 1, 2003. The Division of Special Education brought members of the original Redesign Task Force together with current stakeholders on June 23, 2003. The purpose of the meeting was to review the successes, challenges and original recommendations to provide guidance for effective and efficient operation of the new First Steps system. Based on feedback, the committee provided numerous recommendations to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the system in the areas of administration, training, CFO/SPOE operations, and provider/service coordination.